System and Method for a Heuristics-Based Approach for Determining a Number of Colors in an Image

<u>ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE</u>

A method for determining a number of colors in a digital image includes receiving a digital image and determining a total number of pixels in the digital image. A proportion of the total number of pixels is selected as having an infrequent color and a respective color for each one of a first portion of the pixels is determined. The respective colors are analyzed to determine whether the respective colors include greater than or equal to the selected proportion infrequent color. If the respective colors include greater than or equal to the selected proportion of infrequent colors then a first subsequent process is selected. If the respective colors include less than the selected proportion of pixels having the infrequent color then a second subsequent process is selected. A system for determining a number of colors in a digital image is also described.